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Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development

Groups of countries in special situations

Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Social development

Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Promotion and protection of human rights

General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 14 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As you are aware, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) began its activities within the framework of the third Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC) and the twenty-second summit of the Rio Group, which were held jointly in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 2 and 3 December 2011.

CELAC, which consists of 33 sovereign States from our region, was established on the occasion of the Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit held in Riviera Maya, Mexico, on 23 February 2010 and is the successor of CALC and the Rio Group.

Chile will act as the President Pro Tempore of CELAC until the next Summit, to be held in Santiago in 2012, and will be assisted by a Troika that includes, for the current period, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, as the last country to preside

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over CALC, and Cuba, which will be the next country to act as President Pro Tempore of CELAC.

In our capacity as President Pro Tempore, I have the pleasure to transmit to you, on behalf of the member countries of CELAC, the documents approved at the third Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC) and the twenty-second Summit of the Rio Group (see annex), with the request that they be circulated, together with this letter, as an official document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 17, 19, 22, 23, 27, 41, 42, 45, 46, 69 and 98.

(*Signed*) Octavio **Errázuriz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 14 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Documents approved at the third Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development and the twenty-second summit of the Rio Group

Caracas Declaration

"On the Bicentenary of the Struggle for Independence towards the Path of Our Liberators"

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on 2 and 3 December 2011, within the framework of the third Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC) and the twenty-second Summit of the Rio Group, and in the year commemorating the Bicentenary of the Independence of Venezuela, and in memory and homage to the historic and important work of the Liberator, Simón Bolívar, agree to the following:

2. We recognize the valuable contribution made by the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (the Rio Group), created in December 1986 in Rio de Janeiro, to the central issues of the regional and global agenda in accordance with the highest aspirations of our countries; as well as the impetus given to cooperation, integration and development in the region by CALC, which was created in December 2008, in Salvador de Bahia, Brazil;

3. We reaffirm the Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit Declaration (Riviera Maya, Mexico, 23 February 2010), and, in particular, the decision to constitute the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which comprises the 33 sovereign States of our region;

4. We express appreciation for the establishment of the open-ended unified forum of CALC and the Rio Group, co-chaired by Chile and Venezuela, which supported the excellent work on drafting the document on the procedures of CELAC, fulfilling thereby the Caracas Ministerial Declaration of 3 July 2010;

5. We recognize the significant progress and consensus achieved at the meetings of ministers for foreign affairs held in Caracas in July 2010 and April 2011, as well as the specialized ministerial meetings on social, environmental, energy, financial and commercial issues held during the Venezuelan Presidency of CALC;

6. We are aware of the challenges that the current international economic and financial crisis pose for the future of our region and for our legitimate aspirations for social inclusion, equitable growth, sustainable development and integration;

7. We are convinced that the unity and political, economic, social and cultural integration of Latin America and the Caribbean constitute both a fundamental aspiration of the peoples represented here, and a requirement for the region to successfully address the challenges before us;

8. We are aware that the commemoration of the bicentenary of the independence processes in Latin America and the Caribbean provides a fitting framework for the establishment and implementation of our Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC);

9. We are determined to promote and project a unified voice for Latin America and the Caribbean in the discussion of major issues, and in the positions taken by the region in relation to relevant global events at international meetings and conferences, as well as in dialogue with other regions and countries;

10. We recognize that our countries have made progress in past decades in regional and subregional integration processes and in establishing various mechanisms, which reflect the region's diversity, plurality and aspiration for unity and provide a solid foundation for building a community that includes all the States of Latin America and the Caribbean;

11. We are conscious of our shared aspiration to build just, democratic and free societies, and are convinced that each one of our peoples will choose the ways and means to pursue these ideals, based on their institutions and procedures, and with full respect for the democratic values of the region, the rule of law, and human rights;

12. We ratify our adherence to the purposes and principles set out in the Charter of the United Nations and our respect for international law;

13. We highlight the path taken by the Latin American and Caribbean Liberators over two hundred years ago, a path that commenced in earnest with the independence of Haiti in 1804, guided by Toussaint Louverture and by virtue of which Haiti became the first independent republic of the region; we also recall that the Republic of Haiti, led by President Alexandre Pétion, supported Simón Bolívar in the independence struggles of the territories now known as Latin America and the Caribbean, and in so doing set the basis for solidarity and integration among the peoples of the region;

14. We are inspired by the efforts of the Liberators and fully incorporate their legacy into the foundational heritage of our Community of Latin American and Caribbean States;

15. We are aware that 185 years have elapsed since the grand design of the Liberators was tested, and that the region has now acquired the necessary experience and maturity to address the challenge of unity and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean;

16. We are inspired by the Amphictyonic Congress of Panama in 1826, as a fundamental act of the Latin American and Caribbean doctrine of unity, in which our young sovereign nations initiated the discussion on the destinies of peace, development and social transformation in our continent;

17. We acknowledge with appreciation the participation of indigenous peoples and Afrodescendants in the struggles for independence and acknowledge their moral, political, economic, spiritual and cultural contributions to the creation of our identities and the construction of our nations and democratic processes;

18. We highlight the historic role played by the countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in the process of liberation, development and integration

in Latin America and the Caribbean and stress the continued commitment of CARICOM and the Caribbean peoples to contributing to the integral and sustainable development of the region;

19. Celebrating the commemoration of the Bicentenary of Independence, we, the Latin American and Caribbean countries, honour the memories of our struggles for independence and reaffirm the integrationist ideas of our heroes and heroines.

We hereby declare the following:

20. We, the 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries, conscious of the efforts made at the summit of CALC held on 17 December 2008 in Salvador de Bahia and at the Unity Summit held in Cancun on 23 February 2010, have come together in the context of the Bicentenary of Independence in order to launch the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC);

21. In accordance with the original mandate of our Liberators, CELAC must move forward in the process of political, economic, social and cultural integration, maintaining a fine balance between the unity and diversity of our peoples, so that the regional integration mechanism can become the appropriate forum to express our rich cultural diversity and also a suitable forum to reaffirm the Latin American and Caribbean identity, our common history and our ongoing struggles for justice and liberty;

22. Taking into consideration the diverse processes that have formed the Latin American and Caribbean identity, CELAC must become a forum that protects the right of all cultures and ethnic groups of the region to existence, preservation and coexistence, as well as the multicultural character of our countries, and plurinational of some of our countries, especially of the indigenous communities which are recreating and promoting their historical memory, their ancestral knowledge and experience;

23. As we recognize the right of each nation to build its own political and economic system, freely and peacefully, in the context of the corresponding institutions and according to the sovereign mandate of its people, the processes of dialogue, exchange and political negotiation carried out by CELAC must take into account the following common values and principles: respect for international law, peaceful settlement of disputes, and the prohibition of the use and the threat of use of force, the respect for self-determination, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the non-interference in the internal affairs of each country, and the protection and promotion of all human rights and of democracy;

24. With respect for the values and principles set out in the previous paragraph and reflecting the practice of the Rio Group, CELAC will promote the development of instruments to ensure compliance with those values and principles;

25. We must continue the pooling of efforts and capacities to boost sustainable development in the region, focusing on the expanding process of political, economic, social and cultural cooperation and integration, so as to contribute to consolidating a multi-polar and democratic world that is fair, balanced and at peace, as well as free of the scourge of colonialism and military occupation;

26. We must increase cooperation and the implementation of social policies to reduce existing internal social inequalities with the aim of strengthening our nations' capacity to achieve and exceed the Millennium Development Goals;

27. We must move forward, in accordance with our principles, to strengthen and consolidate Latin American and Caribbean cooperation and develop our economic complementarities and South-South cooperation, which shall be a core element in our shared space and a tool to reduce our asymmetries;

28. CELAC, as the only mechanism for dialogue and consensus that brings together the 33 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, is the highest expression of our will for unity in diversity, through which henceforth, our political, economic, social and cultural ties will be strengthened on the basis of a common agenda of welfare, peace and security for our peoples, with a view to consolidation of our regional community;

29. The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, taking into account the historical heritage of the Rio Group and of CALC, will promote action plans for implementation of the mandates and fulfilment of the commitments set out in the Salvador de Bahia and Cancun Declarations, the Montego Bay Action Plan and the Caracas Work Programme.

Highlighting the experience of the historical process, we, the Heads of State and Government of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, hereby decide the following:

30. We adopt, on the basis of the principles of flexibility and voluntary participation in the initiatives, the declarations and documents approved at the following meetings: the special ministerial meetings on social development and eradication of hunger and poverty, held in Caracas on 24 and 25 March 2011; the meeting on monitoring and evaluation of the progress made by the Forum of Ministers of the Environment, held in Caracas on 28 and 29 April 2011; the ministerial meeting on energy held in Caracas on 12 and 13 May 2011; the Ministerial Meeting on the International Financial Crisis and Foreign Trade, held in Caracas on 18 and 19 May 2011; meeting of regional and subregional integration mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in the context of CALC on 25 and 26 October 2010; meeting of regional and subregional integration mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean on economic and trade issues, held in Montevideo on 6 and 7 April 2010; meeting of regional and subregional integration mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean on production issues, held in Caracas on 5 and 6 May 2011; meeting of regional and subregional integration mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean on social and institutional issues, held in Caracas on 10 and 11 June 2011; meeting on conclusions of regional and subregional integration mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Caracas on 11 June 2011; coordination meeting on regional initiatives on infrastructure for the physical integration of transport and telecommunication, as well as border integration, held in Mexico on 24 and 25 March 2011; regional meeting of Latin American and Caribbean mechanisms on humanitarian assistance, held in Panama on 30 and 31 May 2011; regional meeting on migrant protection, held in Peru on 26 and 27 June 2011. The meetings referred to were held as part of the Caracas work programme to implement the mandates of CALC as set out in the Salvador de Bahia and Cancun Declarations and in the

Montego Bay Action Plan for the period 2010-2011, which was adopted by the ministers for foreign affairs on 3 July 2010;

31. We launch CELAC as a representative mechanism for political consultation, cooperation and integration of Latin American and Caribbean States, and as a shared forum to ensure the unity and integration of our region;

32. We reaffirm that the common purpose of integration, unity and cooperation within CELAC is based on the legacy of the shared principles and agreements adopted by CALC and by the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (the Rio Group), which have completed their productive work and are formally ceasing to function in order to pave the way for CELAC;

33. We incorporate the Caracas Action Plan 2012 into this Declaration with a view to fulfilling our political commitment to defending our unity, integration, cooperation, complementarity and solidarity;

34. We approve the CELAC rules of procedure as an integral part of this Declaration, thereby definitively launching the organization and functioning of CELAC;

35. We invite the President Pro Tempore of CELAC to implement, during the period of Presidency, the 2012 Caracas Action Plan, particularly in the social, environmental, energy, economic and cultural areas, and other priority areas established in the Caracas Action Plan; we also ask the ministers for foreign affairs to submit their proposals for allocating the necessary financial and material resources, in accordance with the standards of maximum effectiveness and austerity set out in the procedures document of CELAC;

36. Our Governments shall instruct the regional mechanisms and organisms to encourage communication, cooperation, articulation, coordination, complementarity and synergy among themselves, where appropriate, and through their respective executive bodies, in order to contribute to achieving the integration goals set forth in this Declaration and to ensure the efficient use of resources and the complementarity of efforts;

37. We reaffirm the invitation to hold the 2012 Summit of CELAC in the Republic of Chile;

38. The 2013 Summit of CELAC shall be held in the Republic of Cuba;

39. We welcome the fact that the 2014 Summit of CELAC shall be held in the Republic of Costa Rica;

40. Done at Caracas, birthplace of the Liberator Simón Bolívar, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011.

2012 Caracas Action Plan

We, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the occasion of the third Summit of CALC, on 2 and 3 December 2011;

Taking into account the goals and principles set forth in the Salvador de Bahia Declaration (2008), the Montego Bay Action Plan (2009), the Cancun Declaration (2010), as well as in the initiatives provided for in the Caracas Work Programme for Implementation of the Montego Bay Action Plan (2010-2011);

In compliance with the mandates of these meetings of ministers and senior officials; emphasising and valuing the results of the activities carried out in the context of their implementation (2010-2011), agree, in accordance with the principles of flexibility and voluntary participation in the initiatives, to adopt the following, which comprises the 2012 Caracas Action Plan.

International financial crisis and the new financial architecture:

- Create tools to improve the financing capacities for intraregional trade
- Implement and strengthen internal and regional capacities to prevent systemic risk crises from occurring within the region, as well as extraregional impacts, to alleviate their adverse effects and prevent contagion through solid monetary and fiscal policies
- Design and implement crisis prevention, mitigation and control measures that make use of the exchange of information and experiences in the region
- Strengthen and expand economic integration processes in the regional, subregional and bilateral areas, with a view to ensuring the creation of a Latin American and Caribbean forum
- Pursue the strategy for designing a new regional financial architecture in accordance with paragraph 12 of the Cancun Declaration and based, inter alia, on the principles of justice, solidarity and transparency; strengthen regional and subregional financial mechanisms and acknowledge the progress made with regional and binational compensation systems for payments, credit and bridge financing
- Encourage the redesign of international financial institutions, with the necessary increase in voice and voting power for developing countries on the basis of the principles of equity and solidarity, with a view to democratizing the decisio.1-making process in such institutions, in line with their current influence on the global economy, as well as the elimination of conditions for granting loans and/or making them more flexible, in a sustainable way, based on respect for the unique features, sustainability, sovereignty, independence and self-determination of each country
- Foster think tanks with a view to strengthening regional financial institutions and continuing to construct new instruments and financial mechanisms and schemes that reduce the levels of external vulnerability of the regional economy and guarantee our countries' right to vote on institutional decisions in a fair manner

- Create and implement measures for prevention, mitigation and control of the financial crisis on the basis of information and experience exchange in the region

- Request the cooperation of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) on these issues.

Complementarity and cooperation between regional and subregional integration mechanisms:

- Strengthen complementarity and cooperation between regional and subregional integration mechanisms and improve coordination between pro tempore secretariats and presidencies, in order to contribute to their effectiveness and to avoid unnecessary duplication in accordance with the mandates set out in the various documents of CALC

- Ensure that the dialogue between the regional and subregional integration mechanisms maintains its structure of four main areas, namely: (i) economic and trade; (ii) production; (iii) social and institutional; and (iv) cultural.

(i) Economic and trade area:

a. Set up a working group to prepare a proposal to develop a Caribbean and Latin American preferential tariff;

b. Develop a trade facilitation programme for Latin America and the Caribbean on issues related to, inter alia, transportation, customs procedures and digitization of procedures;

c. Implement a database to record technical standards and regulations for the import of goods;

d. Organize, in collaboration with ECLAC, a workshop for the integration organizations to discuss and exchange experiences in regional economic policies, to be held in Montevideo in 2012;

e. Extend the discussion and exchange of ideas concerning the enhancement, modernization and expansion of the Agreement on Reciprocal Payments and Credit of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI);

f. Request the cooperation of ALADI in those areas;

g. Carry out a study of modalities for promoting and protecting direct investment flows between countries of the region to take advantage of intraregional trade agreements to promote intraregional direct investment.

(ii) Production area:

Consider the possibility of holding a Latin American and Caribbean conference on productive and industrial development.

(iii) Social area:

a. Create an open-ended working group comprised of representatives of regional and subregional integration mechanisms in order to develop a strategic regional coordination agenda as one of the inputs for consideration by the Forum scheduled in the Declaration of the Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean on Social Development and the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty of 25 March 2011. This Forum has the mandate to develop a regional

action plan to promote public social policies. This Agenda may establish shared goals, priority projects and expected outcomes in terms of social inclusion and development;

b. Assist this process with the creation of a matrix document based on identifying and prioritizing common projects and programmes according to their potential, so that all individuals can benefit from them, in particular those living in vulnerable situations;

c. Foster the active participation of civil society, particularly social organizations and movements, as essential elements in the process of social inclusion within our regional integration.

(iv) Cultural area:

a. Hold a meeting of regional and subregional integration mechanisms to discuss cultural integration and incentives for the development of creative industries.

(v) Energy:

- Create a body comprising representatives of each country's national energy authority as part of the institutional framework to be adopted by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)
- Regard the guidelines of the South American Energy Strategy as input for the development of regional energy integration in CELAC
- Promote the exchange of experiences related to the use of biofuels as a source of energy that could contribute to promoting sustainable development, diversifying national energy matrices, incorporating technologies and additional income sources in the agricultural sector, and mitigating the emissions of greenhouse gasses.

Infrastructure for the physical integration of transport, telecommunications and border integration:

- Reinforce support at the highest level for physical infrastructure initiatives in the region, identifying and seeking solutions for the major obstacles to regional interconnection and cross-border trade
- Accelerate the convergence of regulation and control systems for multi-modal road, air, maritime-port, river and rail transport in each integration mechanism with regard to infrastructure and to exchanging experiences and good practices among them
- Foster regional integration by expanding the ongoing exchange of successful experiences and request regional and subregional bodies and mechanisms to identify current programmes and projects on physical infrastructure, connectivity and border integration that are complementary in the medium and longer term, taking into account the need to have *a strategy for the development and integration of physical infrastructure, connectivity and border regions in Latin America and the Caribbean*

The aim of this strategy is *to reduce the "infrastructure gap" characteristic of Latin America and the Caribbean*, in the light of national efforts to foster economic growth, improve social development and reduce poverty.

Social development and eradication of hunger and poverty:

- Create a forum of ministers to address the social issues of the region in the context of CELAC in order to promote cooperation for the articulation, harmonization and complementarity of national public policies in the social sphere, as well as to create and implement common regional plans, policies and programmes in priority sectors for social development
- Assign this forum the task of creating a regional action plan to promote public social policies
- Convene a second meeting of social development ministers for the fourth quarter of 2012, in order to monitor the commitments established in the Ministerial Declaration of Caracas on Social Development and the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty
- Convene meetings of senior officials on food safety, health and education for the second quarter of 2012, in order to:
  a. Propose action plans for the implementation of agreements established in this Declaration;
  b. Propose objectives and goals in each area for consideration in the regional and comprehensive action plan to promote a public social policy.
- To implement a Latin American and Caribbean literacy and post-literacy programme in those countries that wish to tackle this issue in order to eradicate illiteracy in the region by 2015, in accordance with the Millennium Development Goals
- To design a proposed Latin American and Caribbean programme for the eradication of hunger that is based on successful programmes implemented by governments and social organizations of the region.

Environment:

- Establish a working group within the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) to address the environmental issues of the region, which will serve to strengthen cooperation by fostering the coordination, harmonization, and complementarity of national public policies on environmental issues, as well as to generate and implement joint regional plans, policies and programmes in priority areas for sustainable development
- Assign this group the task of preparing a draft regional environmental agenda
- Convene a meeting of ministers of the environment prior to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to follow up on the agreements of the Caracas Ministerial Environmental Declaration and contribute to the success of the Rio+20 Summit, the high-level segment of which will be held on 22 and 23 June 2012
- Evaluate the creation of a multidisciplinary knowledge centre that contributes to strengthening institutions and training communities in establishing a common agenda for managing water resources.

Humanitarian Assistance:

- Establish, according to the Cancun Declaration of 23 February 2010, an open-ended working group comprising representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean subregions to serve as a link for convergence, coordination and complementarity of the on-going efforts and processes in the region, in particular the Monitoring Group of the Regional Meeting on International Humanitarian Assistance Mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIAH)

- Express appreciation for the convening of the Fifth Regional Meeting on International Humanitarian Assistance Mechanisms in Latin America and the Caribbean (MIAH), to be held in Panama in 2012, and to recommend that the present meeting be continued in that context.

Protection of migrants:

- Promote the development of a regional strategy to facilitate the integration of migrants into the host society, by facilitating legal, labour, productive and cultural integration in keeping with national laws, with a view to promoting a joint position in biregional dialogues.

Culture:

- Hold a ministerial meeting on culture and identities.

Information and Communication Technologies:

- Suggest to national institutions in charge of telecommunications and information technologies in each of the countries of the region to coordinate with their counterparts in neighbouring countries on the use of electricity networks to create telecommunications infrastructure on a collaborative basis, which would help to generate an alternative for achieving lower interconnection costs for telecommunication networks in addition to the associated benefits

- Explore the possibility of installing interconnection platforms for access to telecommunication services in order to foster the development of rural telephony, the availability of broadband for all and its use for social, innovation and educational purposes

- Request regional development banking institutions, drawing on the current studies of integration subregional bodies, to analyse international roaming and long distance conditions and consider the possibility of consolidating charging areas in order to reduce the prices of mobile voice, text and data services

- Entrust the President Pro Tempore, supported by the Troika of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), with the task of pursuing and promoting the necessary actions to achieve the mandates and decisions set forth in the Caracas Action Plan, as well as to elaborate a work programme to be duly implemented during 2012; all this, in keeping with the rules of procedure of CELAC and taking into consideration the agendas and competencies of integration bodies of the region.

Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

Rules of Procedure of CELAC

We, the Heads of State and Government of the member countries of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States:

Highlighting our commitment to achieving agreement and convergence in order to carry out joint actions in defence of the permanent interests of our States;

Determined to build a common space in order to strengthen the political, economic, social and cultural integration of our region, to revitalize and strengthen regional unity, by establishing goals and mechanisms compatible with the actual situation in the region, as well as to develop ties of solidarity and cooperation among the Latin American and Caribbean countries;

Expressing, in order to carry out such joint actions, our renewed conviction in the validity of the shared principles and adopted agreements which are part of the historical heritage of our Latin American and Caribbean Community (CELAC), as expressed within all the declarations and communiqués of the Rio Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development since their respective beginnings;

Reaffirming our irrevocable commitment to peace, to strengthening democracy and boosting the social and economical development of our peoples; convinced that a higher level of integration among our nations is a guarantee for achieving those aspirations and promoting peaceful coexistence among our nations;

Determined to continue developing our own solutions to common problems and to strengthen the negotiating role and capacity of our countries in the international community;

Ratifying the Declaration of the Unity Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean, adopted at the Mayan Riviera, Mexico on 23 February 2010, which is the founding document of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), we hereby adopt the following procedures for the basic operation of CELAC.

I. Bodies

CELAC shall consist of the following bodies:

1. Summit of Heads of State and Government
2. Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs
3. Presidency Pro Tempore
4. Meeting of National Coordinators
5. Special meetings
6. Troika.

1. Summit of Heads of State and Government

The Summit of Heads of State and Government shall be the supreme body of the Community. It shall hold regular meetings in the country that acts as President Pro Tempore of CELAC and extraordinary meetings when the President Pro Tempore, in consultation with Member States, so determines. The President Pro Tempore may convene Summits and extraordinary meetings in consultation with the Troika.

It shall be responsible for:

- Designating the State that is to host the subsequent meeting and serve as President Pro Tempore of CELAC
- Defining guidelines, policy guidelines and priorities, and establish strategies and action plans to achieve the objectives of CELAC
- Adopting policy guidelines and strategies for relations with third countries or other international, regional or subregional intergovernmental organizations or forums
- Approving the modification of procedures and modifications required to facilitate the functioning of CELAC
- Promoting citizens' participation in CELAC.

2. Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs

Meetings of Ministers for Foreign Affairs will take place twice a year, while extraordinary meetings may be convened, when necessary, at the request of a Member State.

It shall be responsible for:

- Adopting resolutions and issuing statements on regional or international issues that are of interest to the countries in the region
- Adopting resolutions to implement the decisions and statements of the Summit of Heads of State and Government
- Adopting the drafts of statements and decisions to be approved at the Summit of Heads of State and Government
- Preparing the Summit of Heads of State and Government
- Coordinating the joint position of member countries at multilateral forums and political forums and during international negotiations to support the Latin American and Caribbean agenda
- Deciding on the establishment of open-ended working groups, whether permanent or temporary, to achieve the Meeting's objectives
- Promoting and developing political dialogue and consensus on issues of interest to CELAC
- Identifying and approving the issues of priority interest to CELAC, and also studies and working groups that provide legal and technical support to the same

- Monitoring and analysing the entire process of unity and integration, as well as monitoring and enforcement of the declarations and decisions of the Summit of Heads of State and Government, and enhancing unity and cooperation for the development of our peoples

- Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of action plans

- Adopting the biennial work programme of CELAC activities, which may include special meetings

- Implementing policy guidelines and strategies for relations with other governmental actors and international organizations

- Delegating tasks and responsibilities in the bodies and working groups that are formed to carry out specific tasks as necessary

- Proposing the regulations of CELAC and any required amendments to such regulations, taking into account the historic legacy

- Approving programmes, projects and initiatives on integration, cooperation, complementarity and development that are submitted to the meeting for consideration by member States and for submission to the Summit of Heads of State and Government for adoption

- Fostering communication, complementarity, cooperation and articulation between subregional integration mechanisms, and receiving, for consideration, the outcomes of the meetings requested by the Pro Tempore Presidency, using existing institutional structures for that purpose

- Coordinating and promoting joint positions on central issues of interest to CELAC.

3. ***Presidency Pro Tempore:***

For the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 periods, the Presidency Pro Tempore will be held for periods of one year and Summit meetings will be convened in 2012 and 2013. At the 2013 Summit, the Heads of State and Government shall decide on the frequency of the Summits and the duration of the Presidency Pro Tempore.

The Presidency Pro Tempore is the body that provides institutional, technical and administrative support to CELAC and its functions shall include:

- Preparing, convening and presiding over the Summit of Heads of State and Government, meetings of the ministers for foreign affairs and national coordinators, and meetings of regional and subregional integration mechanisms

- Implementing decisions of the Summit of Heads of State and Government and meetings of ministers for foreign affairs

- Ensuring continuity and monitoring of the Community's work and keeping member States informed

- Organizing and coordinating meetings of CELAC

- Coordinating the permanent activities of CELAC

- Submitting for consideration to the Summit of Heads of State and Government, the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and the Meeting of National Coordinators, the biennial work programme of CELAC activities, with the dates, venues and agenda of meetings of its bodies
- Monitoring the agreements reached at each meeting
- Preparing working papers on issues of interest to CELAC
- Issuing, registering and organizing official documents and messages and maintain official communication with member States
- Establishing itself as the recipient of the legacy of the Community, as well as that of the Rio Group and of CALC
- Supporting the CELAC bodies in fulfilling their duties
- Preparing and presenting the annual report and the respective reports to the authorities of CELAC
- Preparing and issuing the minutes at the end of each meeting
- Ensuring that all official documents are submitted to Member States in a timely manner and in all the official languages of CELAC.

The Presidency Pro Tempore may convene a meeting of the regional and subregional integration mechanisms to share information, coordinate their tasks, avoid duplicity and intensify dialogue in order to foster unity and integration and accelerate regional development in areas of priority for CELAC.

The State providing the headquarters of the Presidency Pro Tempore shall assume the expenses incurred for its operation.

The headquarters State of the Presidency Pro Tempore shall create and maintain an official website for CELAC, on which, inter alia, CELAC statements will be available.

4. Meeting of National Coordinators

Member States shall be in communication with the Presidency Pro Tempore through the national coordinators, who shall be responsible for the coordination and direct monitoring of the topics under discussion.

Each country shall designate one national coordinator and the necessary deputies.

Regular meetings shall take place twice a year before each meeting of foreign ministers and extraordinary meetings shall take place as required.

As a rule, meetings of national coordinators shall take place in the country holding the Presidency Pro Tempore, unless, at the proposal of the latter and in agreement with member States, it is decided otherwise.

It shall be responsible for:

- Coordinating at the national level on issues of unity, dialogue and regional political consensus that are of interest for the CELAC agenda
- Liaising and coordinating on issues of unity, consensus and political dialogue

- Liaising and coordinating on programmes, projects and initiatives for integration, cooperation and development
- Adopting the relevant provisions to implement decisions of the Summit of Heads of State and Government and resolutions of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, with support from the Presidency Pro Tempore
- Preparing for the meetings of ministers for foreign affairs
- Preparing draft statements, decisions, resolutions, and regulations for consideration by the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs
- Coordinating CELAC initiatives with other existing regional and subregional integration processes, in order to promote complementarity of efforts
- Organizing, coordinating and monitoring the working groups
- Monitoring the political dialogue and consensus on issues of regional and international interest
- Monitoring and coordinating specific cooperation and development projects that take place within CELAC
- Establishing open-ended working groups, in compliance with the mandates and recommendations of the relevant bodies
- Ensuring that these bodies report on their findings to the national coordinators, who shall submit the information to the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs
- Identifying the outcomes of the meetings of regional and subregional integration mechanisms and submitting them for consideration to the ministers for foreign affairs.

5. Special meetings

Areas of interest and other priority areas for the promotion of unity, integration and regional cooperation shall be addressed at special meetings which shall be attended by senior officials with sufficient decision-making capacity to meet the objectives of CELAC.

The Presidency Pro Tempore shall convene such meetings in accordance with the provisions of the CELAC biennial work programme.

These bodies shall report on their work to the Meeting of National Coordinators, which shall submit such reports to the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs.

If necessary, such meetings may be preceded by preparatory technical meetings.

6. Troika

The Presidency Pro Tempore shall be assisted by a troika consisting of the State acting as the President Pro Tempore, the State that previously held that responsibility and the State that will be the next to act as President Pro Tempore.

The troika shall be constituted automatically at the time of the election of the Member State to act as President Pro Tempore of CELAC.

Decisions

Decisions shall be taken by consensus in all instances.

Decisions shall be documented in writing and shall take the form of declarations, decisions, joint and special communiqués, resolutions or any other decision-making instrument that is determined by mutual agreement. All decisions are political agreements and constitute mandates.

II. Urgent consultation mechanism

In order to issue statements in an expeditious and timely manner in the case of unforeseen events requiring urgent attention from CELAC, the Presidency Pro Tempore or any member State, through the Presidency Pro Tempore, may propose a declaration or statement for adoption. The Presidency Pro Tempore shall circulate the text to the members of the Troika, which will issue an opinion as to whether it is appropriate to issue a ruling on a given topic. To receive a favourable opinion from the Troika, the draft declaration or statement must be considered and agreed to by all member States, through the national coordinators. If possible, a minimum time interval of twelve hours shall be given for consultations between the Presidency Pro Tempore and the Troika and the same period for consultation with member States. The consultations are conducted according to the principle that an absence of observations or objections during the specified time period shall constitute the tacit approval of the proposal.

It is the duty of the Presidency Pro Tempore to address the request made by the Member State.

III. Links with other regions

CELAC shall assume the following responsibilities in the Community's relationships and dialogue with other countries and regional groups:

- Political dialogue with other intergovernmental actors and international organizations and mechanisms
- Coordination of common positions in multilateral forums to promote and advance the interests of the Latin American and Caribbean community in relation to issues on the international agenda
- Promotion of the Latin American and Caribbean agenda in global forums
- Positioning of Latin America and the Caribbean in relation to important events
- The Presidency Pro Tempore shall coordinate the annual dialogues with other regional blocs and countries that play a predominant role in the international community.

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States constitutes the representative mechanism of Latin America and the Caribbean and, as such, shall be

responsible for dialogue in the following forums, without adversely affecting any other forums which may be established:

- Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union (ALC-UE)
- Institutionalized Ministerial Dialogue between the Rio Group and the European Union
- Dialogues previously conducted by the Rio Group with countries or groups of countries in the context of meetings in parallel with the United Nations General Assembly.

IV. Languages

The official languages of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States shall be Dutch, English, French, Portuguese and Spanish. The working languages shall be English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

V. Modifications to the procedures

Any of the member States may propose modifications to these procedures by means of a written communications from the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Presidency Pro Tempore. Such proposals shall be analysed by the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs which shall make recommendations for the consideration of the Heads of State and Government, who shall take a decision.

VI. Incorporation of the historic legacy of the Rio Group and CALC

The historic legacy of CELAC comprises the declarations, joint and special communiqués, resolutions and other decision-making instruments approved at proceedings of the Rio Group and CALC. The following documents are annexed to these Rules of Procedure: the list of issues, statements and documents that have been discussed by CALC and the Rio Group, which constitute the historical heritage of the two mechanisms.

VII. Unification of the Rio Group and CALC

The Community of Latin American and Caribbean States is the successor, for all purposes, of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action (Rio Group) and the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC). Therefore, the Rio Group and CALC shall cease to function, without affecting the continuity of ongoing programmes and actions that have been agreed by the Rio Group and CALC.

Transitional Provisions

Until the expiry of the term set out in the Declaration of Unity, adopted at the Riviera Maya on 23 February 2010, the planned 2012 summit will be held in Chile,

the country that will act as the first President Pro Tempore of CELAC until that date.

The appointment of the first Troika for the period 2011-2012 shall consist of the State which has been designated to act as President Pro Tempore for the period 2012-2013, the State which acted as the final President Pro Tempore of the Rio Group and the State that acted as the final President of CALC.

With the adoption of these Rules of Procedure, the process of establishing the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) is completed.

Special declaration on the defence of democracy and constitutional order in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Founding Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States:

Reiterate that our community is founded on the utmost respect for the rule of law, the respect for sovereignty, and territorial integrity, the defence of democracy, the sovereign will of peoples, social justice, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, which are essential requirements for participation in the various bodies of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and are achievements of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples which cannot be taken away;

Ratify that respect for the rule of law, respect for lawfully established authorities as an expression of the sovereign will of peoples, non-interference in domestic affairs and the defence of democratic institutions are indispensable guarantees for ensuring peace, stability, economic prosperity and social justice, as well as the effective exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and that any rupture or threatened rupture of the constitutional order and the rule of law in one of the member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States jeopardizes its normal development and constitutes a serious event that calls for determined action on the part of the Latin American and Caribbean community;

Reaffirm that democracy, sustainable development and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and are all equally based on the principles of objectivity, impartiality and universality;

Highlight the importance of commitments made in the area of democracy within the framework of the United Nations and regional instruments. We also recall that democracy is a universal value that is part of the historical heritage of the Rio Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development (CALC), which have extensively addressed the democratic principles that we share;

Express our rejection and condemnation of any attempt to alter or subvert the constitutional order and the normal functioning of institutions in any member State of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

We hereby agree:

- To adopt a clause of commitment to the promotion, defence and protection of the rule of law, the democratic order, the sovereignty of the peoples, and human rights and fundamental freedoms, including, inter alia, the right to life, liberty and security of person, the right to not be subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment or treatment, to not be arbitrarily arrested, imprisoned or banished, or subjected to summary and arbitrary execution or enforced disappearance, and the right to freedom of opinion and speech;

– That, when the constitutional Government of a member State considers that there is a threat of breakdown or alteration of the democratic order that affects it substantially, it may notify the Presidency Pro Tempore of such a situation, and that the Presidency, with the assistance of the Troika, shall be responsible for informing all member States of the situation so that they can decide on the adoption of specific, concerted measures of cooperation and a statement by the Latin American and Caribbean Community on the defence and preservation of its democratic institutions;

– That, in the event of a breakdown in public order or of the rule of law, the Presidency Pro Tempore, with the support of the Troika, shall convene an extraordinary meeting of foreign ministries of member States, so that, with the full participation of the legitimate Government affected and in a swift and timely manner, taking into account other ongoing efforts, they can decide by consensus to adopt, inter alia, the following measures:

1. Engage in diplomatic efforts in the affected State in order to contribute to the restoration of the democratic institutional political process and of the rule of law as soon as possible;

2. Where there has been a breakdown in public order or the rule of law, to suspend the affected State's right to participate in the various bodies and entities and its enjoyment of the rights and benefits arising from membership in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, until public order is restored.

The measures adopted with regard to events referred to in this Declaration must be consistent with international law and the domestic legislation of the affected State.

– To terminate the measures referred to above when it is determined, on the basis of periodic assessments of the situation, that the reasons for their adoption no longer exist.

Signed in the city of Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011.

Special communiqué on the Malvinas Islands

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011 within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), reiterate their strongest support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas and the abiding interest of the countries of the region in the resumption of negotiations by the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in order to find as soon as possible a peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute in accordance with the relevant pronouncements by the United Nations and the Organization of American States, as expressed in previous declarations by the Rio Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Summit, in particular the declaration of the Riviera Maya Summit, Mexico, 23 February 2010, which are part of the Community's historical heritage.

2. Furthermore, they reiterate the importance of observing the provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/49, which calls on the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands are going through the process recommended by the Assembly.

3. They highlight the continuous constructive attitude and willingness of the Argentine Government to reach, through negotiations, a peaceful and definitive solution to this anachronistic colonial situation on American soil.

4. In this regard, the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States instruct the Presidency Pro Tempore to request the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, to renew his efforts in carrying out the mission of good offices entrusted to him by the General Assembly under successive resolutions for the resumption of negotiations aimed at finding as soon as possible a peaceful solution to the dispute and to inform us of the progress achieved in carrying out his mission.

5. The Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States thank the Presidency Pro Tempore for its efforts.

Special communiqué on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), express their strongest condemnation of coercive and unilateral economic measures imposed for political reasons against sovereign countries, measures which impair the well-being of peoples and are designed to prevent countries from exercising their right to determine, of their own free will, their political, economic and social systems.

2. They reiterate their strongest condemnation of laws and measures that contravene international law, such as the Helms-Burton Act, including its extraterritorial impact, and urge the Government of the United States of America to end them.

3. As a corollary, they urge the Government of the United States of America to comply with the successive resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and to respond to repeated calls from the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean by ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba. That embargo is contrary to international law, inflicts extensive and unwarranted harm on the Cuban people and affects peace and harmonious relations among the nations of the Americas.

Special communiqué on commitment to social inclusion in CELAC

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):

2. Convinced that the transformation of the State and the development of our countries is a historic task that requires mechanisms and social policies to overcome inequality and achieve authentic social inclusion, which is reflected in a substantive improvement in the living conditions of our citizens and ensures equal opportunities and the exercise of full citizenship;

3. Recognize social inclusion as a fundamental element for development, democracy and the construction of a new relationship between the State and Society, based on the trust of the citizens and on a State that serves all, in particular the most disadvantaged;

4. Undertake to build States that promote growth and social progress, generate sustainable development, strengthen democratic governance, with equal opportunities for women and men, and economic development with social inclusion. We also commit to designing public policies to achieve concrete results that lead to significant improvements in the quality of life for our peoples, with special emphasis on the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty, provision of access to decent employment that increases the income of the population in a sustainable manner, and reduction of gaps in access to basic and good quality social services, in particular health and education.

Special communiqué on food and nutrition security

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), welcomed the progress made by the competent social authorities of the countries in respect of food and nutrition security, within the framework of the First Latin American and Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on Social Development and the Eradication of Hunger and Poverty; and

2. They reaffirmed the principles and mandates on food and nutrition security set out in the Presidential Declarations of Salvador de Bahia and Cancun, as well as in the Montego Bay Action Plan, and expressed their strong will to foster a regional food and nutrition policy, supported by the Latin American and Caribbean unity and integration processes.

3. Furthermore, they recognized that a structural response to the problem must include, inter alia, the development of agriculture, the improvement of food distribution and access to food for the most disadvantaged population groups, and must promote favourable conditions for investing in and developing agriculture and other related issues.

4. They highlighted the importance of promoting agricultural development with the support of multilateral, regional and subregional banks and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, bilaterally and through triangular or South-South cooperation and cooperation for development.

5. They noted that agricultural trade reform is still a pending issue in the multilateral system and they stressed that efforts to promote the development of agriculture must continue within the framework of the World Trade Organization.

6. They emphasized the importance of exchanging technologies and supporting small producers, family agriculture programmes, cooperatives and organized indigenous communities in the region, highlighting their role in the preservation, conservation and sustainable use of traditional crops. They highlighted the importance of the long-established practice of producing food for home consumption and local markets.

7. They expressed their strong commitment to promoting regional coordination of initiatives on food and nutrition security based on the four pillars of availability, access, utilization and stability.

8. In that regard, they requested the Presidency Pro Tempore of CELAC to make contact with the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) with a view to establishing guidelines for cooperation in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraphs.

Special communiqué against financial speculation and the excessive volatility in food prices

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), aware of the fact that adequate nourishment constitutes a fundamental human right and aware of the current capacity and potential of the region for food production, and of the challenges posed by demographic dynamics over the coming decades, and taking into account the socio-economic challenges that hinder access to food for some population groups:

2. Reaffirm their concern about the excessive volatility of food prices and the risk that it represents for the nutrition and food security of their peoples; and support concerted efforts to prevent market distortions, preserve transparency and the proper functioning of the food market, with the participation of various productive sectors, and to mitigate the impact on the most vulnerable peoples and countries.

Special communiqué on the human rights situation of migrants

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

2. Welcome the outcome of the Regional Meeting on the Protection of Migrants, which was held on 27 and 28 June 2011 in Lima, Peru.

3. Reaffirm their concern about the vulnerable situation of migrants and their families owing to the permanent violation of their human rights and the lack of protection; and therefore encourage States to increase their national, binational and regional efforts to move forward in strengthening full social and economic development in the region, in order to free it from all factors that encourage international migration, which should be a free decision.

4. They take note of the agreements reached in the Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Organized Crime and Migrant Security, held in Mexico City on 8 October 2010, and urge the authorities of the participating countries to continue their efforts to implement those agreements.

5. They highlight the need to promote coordinated actions of Latin American and Caribbean Governments to address, combat and punish, with all the force of law and on the basis of the relevant international conventions and national legislation, migrant smuggling and human trafficking in the countries of origin, transit and destination of migrants. Furthermore, they recognize the need to foster and reformulate joint regional and bilateral actions and strategies to promote assistance and protection programmes for migrants in the origin, transit and destination societies.

6. They express their rejection of the criminalization of migrants. In this connection, they are strongly committed to combating the racism and xenophobia that may be experienced by migrants and their families, to asserting their capabilities as political, economic, cultural and scientific actors who are fundamental to the development and integration processes in the societies of origin, transit and destination.

7. In addition, they reiterate their utmost support for all national and regional efforts that take a comprehensive approach to addressing the challenges of migration, based on the principles of tolerance, solidarity, complementarity, gender equality, justice, social inclusion and social equity, with emphasis on full respect for the human rights of migrants and their families, and reasserting the responsibility that origin, transit and destination countries should assume in the migration process.

8. They recognize that migration policies should focus on migrants, on the promotion of safe migration, on flexible and permanent mechanisms for regularization in destination countries, and on policies that strengthen the integration of migrants, with special safeguards for the most vulnerable groups.

9. They reaffirm the importance of defending a positive agenda on migration issues, which recognizes the specific features of Latin American and Caribbean migration; they also stress their recognition of the benefits of interculturality as a contribution that migrants have made to the origin and destination countries and the

need to promote and intensify programmes to generate synergies between migration and development.

10. They express their concern for the impact of the international economic and financial crisis on the socio-economic situation, as well as for the deterioration of the working and employment conditions of migrant workers and their families.

Special communiqué on sustainable development in the States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

We, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):

Recognizing the particular vulnerabilities of CARICOM countries as small island developing States, which constrain their efforts towards sustainable development;

Noting the specific socio-economic challenges that they face, such as the impact of natural disasters, the impact of climate change, the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases, high levels of debt and the categorization of some countries in the region as upper-middle-income countries, which impedes their access to concessional financing;

Expressing deep concern about the impact on CARICOM member States of the global financial and economic crisis;

Emphasising that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 (Rio Conference), was significant for the consolidation of the sustainable development paradigm which gives equal weight to the social, environmental and economic pillars of development;

Reaffirming the commitment of the Caribbean countries to contributing to the success of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);

1. Reaffirm the continued validity of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States as the blueprint providing the fundamental framework for their sustainable development;

2. Recognize that particular attention should be given to building resilience in small island developing States, including through technology transfer and development, as well as human resources development and capacity-building;

3. Reaffirm our commitment to strengthening cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime, including illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, which has a devastating impact on the economic and social well-being of our region, and particularly of the member States of CARICOM and their peoples;

4. Emphasize the need to strengthen action and partnerships geared to implementing the commitments made in the Political Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government at the high-level meeting on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in September 2011, and for appropriate follow-up in line with the comprehensive review and assessment to be undertaken in 2014 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs;

5. Emphasize also, the need to increase efforts to implement the commitments made in the Political Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government at the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria held in June 2011, with a view to, inter alia, removing before 2015, where feasible, obstacles that limit the capacity of low- and middle-income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products;

6. Recognize that social inclusion is an essential element in the development of the region and, in the context of 2011, as the International Year for People of African Descent, reiterate our commitment to combat racism and racial discrimination in all its forms.

Special communiqué on solidarity with Haiti

1. We, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

2. Reaffirm, in view of the positive outcomes of our region's solidarity with Haiti, the first independent country in Latin America and the Caribbean, our strong commitment to continuing to contribute effectively to the efforts for Haiti's reconstruction and development, in accordance with the fundamental priorities and needs to be defined by the Government of that sister nation and with full respect for its authority and sovereignty and the principle of non-intervention in domestic affairs.

3. Welcome the initiatives of Haiti's national Government to eradicate poverty and promote the social development of the Haitian people, as well as the joint efforts of our region to support the strengthening of State institutions in Haiti.

4. Express, in this regard, our determination to continue our cooperation efforts with the Haitian people and Government, with emphasis on the goals of universal education and the fight against hunger, as well as strengthening of health systems and governmental institutions.

Special communiqué on Paraguay — a landlocked developing country

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):

2. Reaffirmed the need to promote the growth and development of the member States of CELAC and to reduce existing disparities. In this context, they expressed the need to make progress with mechanisms and the adoption of effective measures to address the needs and difficulties facing Paraguay as a landlocked developing country. This is widely recognized and supported, among other international instruments, by:

- Article 125 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
- Article V of GATT 94;
- Article 35 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration;
- CMC Decision 33/07;
- CMC Decision 19/11 on freedom of transit;
- The following resolutions approved by the United Nations General Assembly: resolution 55/2, containing the United Nations Millennium Declaration; and resolution 56/180;
- Specific actions related to particular needs and problems faced by landlocked developing countries;
- Joint communiqué of the States Parties of MERCOSUR and associated States of 29 June 2011;
- Twenty-first Ibero-American Summit, Asunción Declaration of 29 October 2011.

3. In this regard, they recognize the special situation of the Republic of Paraguay as a landlocked developing country and commit to providing the support required to overcome the vulnerabilities and specific problems arising from its condition, by facilitating free transit in accordance with the provisions of United Nations General Assembly resolution No. 63/2, "Outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries" regarding fundamental transit policy issues; and in accordance with the applicable regulations of international law, international conventions and current bilateral agreements.

Special communiqué on the original and ancestral coca, part of the natural heritage of Bolivia and Peru

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):

Reaffirm their commitment to supporting the cultural and ancestral practices of indigenous peoples within the framework of respect for human rights and fundamental rights of indigenous peoples.

Furthermore, they acknowledge that traditional coca leaf chewing (*akulliku*) is an ancestral cultural expression of the peoples of Bolivia and Peru that should be respected by the international community.

Special communiqué on the Yasuní-ITT initiative Summit of CALC and CELAC

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), are aware of and support the voluntary initiatives for climate change mitigation which are taking place in the region. They welcome the Yasuní-ITT initiative of Ecuador, as it constitutes an effective measure to address climate change, and highlight the support received by the initiative. Under this initiative, Ecuador will forego the extraction of 846 million barrels of oil, thereby preventing 407 million tons of carbon emissions from being released into the atmosphere.

2. Considering that this initiative requires international participation, they recognize the importance of contributions to the Yasuní Fund made by Latin American and Caribbean countries and they invite the international community, based on the principle of common, but differentiated responsibilities, to contribute to the trust fund that was established in August 2010 and is administered by the United Nations Development Programme. This initiative will contribute to the conservation of one of the world's most biologically diverse areas, the protection of indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation, and to social development, nature conservation and the use of renewable energy sources and promotion of a model of sustainable development.

Special communiqué on the emergency situation in Central America owing to tropical depressions

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), express their solidarity with their sister Central American republics affected by the emergency situation that faces their territories as a result of Tropical Depression 12-E and Storm Rita, which have caused more than one hundred deaths, affected thousands of persons and inflicted significant damage to housing, crops and basic infrastructure.

2. Offering their condolences to the Governments and peoples of Central America on account of the victims of the torrential rains, the States of Latin America and the Caribbean express their support for the call formulated in the Comalapa Declaration of 25 October 2011 for the international community and the relevant organizations to play an active role in the Advisory Group which has been convened for 16 December 2011, in order to contribute to the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts undertaken by the fraternal peoples of Central America.

Special communiqué on the declaration of 2013 as the International Year of Quinoa

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):

2. Welcome resolution 15/2011 on the International Year of Quinoa, adopted on 2 July by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) at its thirty-seventh session, noting that quinoa is a natural food of high nutritional value, and recognizing the traditional knowledge and practices used in its cultivation which has been maintained, controlled and protected by the Andean indigenous peoples.

3. Reiterate that quinoa, owing to its nutritional value, plays a role in achieving food and nutrition security and eradicating poverty, thereby having a direct impact on the achievement of all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

4. In this connection, they express their commitment to encouraging the cultivation of quinoa in order to reduce hunger, in view of its nutritional properties. They also stress the importance of disseminating information on this nutritional food by supporting research and development programmes.

Special communiqué on support for the Central American Security Strategy

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), expressed their firm support for the Central American Security Strategy, which was formulated in a comprehensive manner by the States participating in the Central American Integration System (SICA). Their priorities were submitted for consideration to the International Conference in Support of the Central American Security Strategy, held in Guatemala City on 22 and 23 June 2011.

2. The Heads of State and Government of CELAC acknowledged the regional nature of the Central American security plan, noting that the joint efforts were not only focused on funding, but also on creating a new model of international cooperation on security issues, including components of technical collaboration and technological and scientific exchange.

3. The Heads of State and Government of CELAC acknowledged, in accordance with the principle of shared and differentiated responsibility, their commitment to joint efforts undertaken by SICA member States in their struggle against the scourge of violence and transnational criminal activities.

4. Finally, they renewed their expression of solidarity and their willingness to carry out joint efforts to contribute to security in Central America, which will contribute to peace and security throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Special communiqué on the total elimination of nuclear weapons

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), reiterated their deep concern at the threat to humanity posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons and their possible use or threat of use. In that regard, they reaffirmed the importance of complete and verifiable nuclear disarmament as the highest priority, and also reiterated the priority attached to nuclear non-proliferation.

2. At the time of establishing the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), they confirmed that Latin America and the Caribbean was proud to be the first densely populated area in the world to be declared a nuclear-weapon-free zone (NWFZ), through the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco). They noted that the identity of the region had been confirmed by that event and stressed that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones strengthened international and regional peace and security, as well as the non-proliferation regime, as it was an important contribution to the achievement of nuclear disarmament.

3. They urged the nuclear Powers to withdraw all reservations to the Protocols of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, thus helping to eliminate the possible use of nuclear weapons against the countries of the region.

4. The Heads of State and Government called for full and balanced implementation of the three pillars of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful nuclear cooperation.

5. They reaffirmed their commitment to the application of the comprehensive IAEA safeguards requested by the NPT, and urged all States to implement all relevant safeguards in accordance with their international obligations.

6. The Heads of State and Government emphasized the holding of the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in May 2010 and the adoption of a final substantive document, after years of stagnation. However, they reiterated the urgent need for accelerated progress towards full implementation of the nuclear-weapon States' commitment to achieving the priority goal of nuclear disarmament and the elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons through irreversible, clear and verifiable initiatives.

7. Similarly, they urged those States whose ratification was essential for the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) to accelerate their process of signing and/or ratification of that instrument. They also called for the beginning of negotiations for a treaty to prohibit the production of fissile material.

8. They highlighted the importance of their active participation in drafting concrete proposals in order to achieve general nuclear disarmament and the total elimination of nuclear weapons according to a multilateral, clear, irreversible and verifiable time frame.

9. They expressed their wish for CELAC to make a joint statement on issues of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy,

with a view to, inter alia, concerted action at the 2015 NPT Review Conference and the preparatory work in 2012, 2013 and 2014. For that purpose, the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) shall cooperate with CELAC within its area of competence.

10. They expressed their strong commitment to the task of convening an international high-level conference to identify ways and methods of eliminating nuclear weapons as soon as possible. The objective of that conference would be to agree on a phased programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified period of time. That programme would prohibit their development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer and use or threat of use, and would also provide for their destruction.

Special communiqué on the twentieth anniversary of the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC)

1. The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), expressed their satisfaction at the twentieth anniversary of the agreements through which Argentina and Brazil affirmed their unequivocal commitment to the strictly peaceful use of nuclear energy and created the Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control of Nuclear Materials (ABACC).

2. They both recognized that political dialogue, transparency and mutual confidence in the nuclear field had become a fundamental pillar of the relationship between Brazil and Argentina, which benefited integration and cooperation of the entire region. They also highlighted the contribution of those factors to the consolidation of the regime of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

3. They expressed their satisfaction at the international recognition of the successful experience of ABACC, which was an example and a strong inspiration for other regions of the world, particularly those where nuclear-weapon-free zones did not yet exist. They also highlighted the contribution of nuclear-weapon-free zones to non-proliferation and to the promotion and strengthening of nuclear disarmament.

4. They warmly welcomed the recent recognition by the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) that the existing ABACC safeguards agreement provided the highest guarantees in terms of nuclear safeguards. They highlighted that NSG had also ratified the inalienable right of the non-nuclear-weapon States to have unrestricted access to exchanges related to the development for peaceful uses of the most important or advanced nuclear technologies.

5. They stressed the need for nuclear disarmament and their conviction that the existence of nuclear weapons increased the security threat to all States, including those that possessed them. They expressed their expectation that the nuclear-weapon countries would move forward in their individual efforts for disarmament and establish with due haste, at the multilateral level, a transparent, irreversible and verifiable time frame for nuclear disarmament.

Special communiqué in support of combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):

Reiterate their total condemnation of all acts of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable acts, and reaffirm their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, in strict conformity with international law, international human rights standards and international humanitarian law, and to this end shall, inter alia, strengthen their national legislation wherever necessary and promote active and effective international cooperation to prevent, investigate, punish and eliminate all manifestations of this scourge. Moreover, they pledged to take measures to prevent, penalize and eliminate the financing and preparation of all terrorist acts and to deny refuge to those who instigate, finance, perpetrate, sponsor or participate in terrorist activities, in accordance with international legislation, including the corresponding international conventions and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council.

Reaffirm their commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in September 2006, updated in 2008 and 2010, and reiterate their determination to apply the principles embodied in the strategy and to implement all the measures provided for therein as the most effective way both of wiping out the threat of terrorism and of ensuring full adherence to the rule of law and respect for human rights. In addition, they welcome the work done by the Secretary-General's Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in publicizing and coordinating the work of the United Nations system with a view to integrated implementation of the strategy.

Reaffirm the need to ensure that those who commit terrorist acts do not go unpunished, and urge all States, in conformity with international law, to cooperate fully in combating terrorism, especially with States in whose territory or against whose citizens terrorist acts are committed, with a view to locating, capturing and denying safe haven to and bringing to justice, on the basis of the principle "aut dedere aut judicare" and in keeping with their national legislation, anyone who supports or facilitates the financing, planning, preparation or commission of acts of terrorism or the provision of safe haven and anyone who participates or intends to participate in such acts.

Express their solidarity with the victims and families of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever acts of this nature have occurred and regardless of who has participated in or committed them, of who has sponsored or funded them, or of the pretexts given as a motive for such crimes.

Urge all States to ensure, in conformity with international law, that refugee status or asylum is not invoked illegitimately by those who finance, perpetrate, organize or sponsor terrorist acts, and that claims of political motivation are not used to justify the denial of requests for the extradition of persons sought by justice systems intent on determining their responsibility for terrorist acts.

Condemn the fact that the perpetrator of a terrorist attack on a Cubana de Aviación aircraft in October 1976, which caused the death of 73 innocent civilians, has not been tried for terrorism, and they support efforts to secure his extradition or prosecution.

Reaffirm the value of extradition as an essential tool in combating terrorism and urge those States that have received requests for the extradition of terrorists from States members of their Community to give them due consideration in strict adherence to the applicable legal framework.

Call upon all States that have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to all conventions and protocols relating to terrorism as a matter of urgency, with a view to fulfilling all obligations thereunder, and to all international agreements which require them to provide legal assistance or to prosecute and punish in a prompt and appropriate manner those who finance, sponsor, participate in or commit terrorist acts, in strict conformity with international law and with due regard for human rights and international humanitarian law and the national legislation of each State, whether they are committed against persons, public or private facilities for transport of goods or passengers, internationally protected persons, diplomatic missions, tourist facilities and other public and private facilities.

Shall continue their efforts to take the necessary and appropriate measures that were consistent with their respective obligations under international law, with a view to prohibiting by law incitement to commit terrorist acts and preventing conduct of that nature.

Request States to cooperate within the framework of the United Nations with a view to the adoption of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and to resolve the outstanding issues concerning the draft convention, including those related to the legal definition and to the scope of the acts covered by the draft convention, so that it may serve as an effective counter-terrorism instrument; undertake to continue their active cooperation with the relevant bodies of the United Nations system in preventing and combating terrorism.

Reaffirm their profound solidarity with the victims of terrorist acts, express their desire to receive the necessary support and note that it would be appropriate for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to follow up on the First International Symposium on Supporting Victims of Terrorism, held by the United Nations in 2008.

Shall work to establish, through the solidarity of the international community and within the framework of the United Nations, a practical mechanism for providing international assistance to the victims of terrorism.

Special communiqué on the world drug problem

We, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3 December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):

Considering that the world drug problem affects all States and that, in order to combat this scourge, regional and global strategies are required against all of its component parts;

Reaffirming the need for an integrated and balanced approach to the world drug problem in order to reduce both supply and demand, and the need to address it in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility;

Recognizing that effective demand reduction in developed countries is an essential condition for success in combating illicit drug trafficking and associated crimes;

Recognizing also the national and regional efforts made by Latin American and Caribbean States to counter the world drug problem and the high priority attached by their Governments to the security of their citizens;

Reaffirming that international cooperation and the exchange of useful information among our States, on a basis of mutual confidence, is a fundamental element of our struggle against transnational organized crime and the world drug problem;

Concerned at the diversification of the criminal activities of transnational organized crime which has gone beyond drug trafficking and is increasingly involved in, among other related crimes, the diversion of chemical precursors and other substances for the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; money-laundering; and arms trafficking, which leads to an increase in violence;

Therefore decide to:

Reaffirm our countries' commitment to countering the global drugs problem, through a comprehensive and balanced approach based on the validity of the principle of shared responsibility;

Demand that the developed countries, where there is the greatest demand for illicit drugs, reduce consumption significantly and establish effective controls on arms trafficking;

Highlight the importance of the regional cooperation to strengthen our countries' national efforts to counter transnational organized crime, in particular drug trafficking, arms trafficking, money-laundering, diversion of chemical precursors and other related crimes;

Take effective measures at the regional and national levels and promote close cooperation among our States in order to prevent organizations involved in the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs from acquiring firearms and their parts and ammunition;

Foster effective measures at the regional and national levels to cooperate with the countries which are used as transit territories for illicit drug trafficking;

Strengthen our systems for prevention, timely identification, primary care, treatment and social reintegration of persons with drug use, abuse and dependence issues, and also to strengthen the development of regional policies and technologies to facilitate the implementation of programmes, services and models in that area to reduce demand;

Welcome the proposal of the Peruvian Government to hold a high-level international conference in 2012 to analyse and implement concrete measures on the world drug problem as an addition to the substantial initiatives on that issue being carried out in the region and, at the global level, within the United Nations.

CELAC communiqué to support the regional nomination of a candidate for the post of Director-General of the International Labour Organization (ILO)

The Heads of State of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 2 and 3 December 2011:

Reaffirm their commitment to promoting and guaranteeing the fundamental rights of workers, with due respect for the sovereignty of States and the international agreements adopted by the International Labour Organization, which has a unique tripartite composition, and other bodies;

Reiterate the importance of multilateralism and their commitment to promoting and projecting a common voice in the discussion of global issues and the international positioning of the region;

Decide to support Colombia's wish to put forward the candidature of Mr. Angelino Garzón, current Vice-President of the Republic of Colombia, in the elections to be held in 2012 for the position of Director-General of the International Labour Organization.

United Nations A/66/648

General Assembly

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Sixty-sixth session
Agenda item 27
Social development

Letter dated 27 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you herewith information on the international symposium "National Model of Mother and Child Health-care in Uzbekistan: Healthy Mother — Healthy Child", held on 25 and 26 November 2011 in the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent (see annex).

I would highly appreciate if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 27.

(*Signed*) Murad **Askarov**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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[Original: Russian]

Annex to the letter dated 27 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

National Mother and Child Health-care Model in Uzbekistan: Healthy Mother, Healthy Child

An international symposium entitled "National Model of Mother and Child Health-care in Uzbekistan: Healthy Mother, Healthy Child" took place in Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan) on 26 November 2011.

Organized at the initiative of President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, the symposium was conducted by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Some 300 world-renowned scientists and representatives of international organizations in the health-care field were in attendance, including the directors of WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA and ministry of health officials from nearly 40 countries, including the United States of America, China, the Russian Federation, Canada, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Germany, Italy, Spain, France, Finland, Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Republic of Korea and others.

The main focus of the scientific forum was a thoroughgoing analysis of the outcome of the radical reforms carried out in Uzbekistan since independence to protect and improve public health, including maternal and child health, raise a healthy generation and establish an appropriate, integrated national health-care model.

The national model for delivery of medical services to the public encompasses the main areas covered by the health system reforms in Uzbekistan, which are:

- Equal conditions of primary medical care delivery ensured in urban and rural areas alike by establishing a new type of medical institution, the rural health centre and family polyclinic, where medical care is delivered by general practitioners;
- Organization and operation of a fundamentally new emergency care system, consisting of a national research centre for emergency medical care with branches in the provinces, with services provided through a network of institutions equipped with the latest in high-tech medical equipment;
- Establishment of specialized research and clinical medical centres, including centres for paediatrics and obstetrics and gynaecology, and national and regional perinatal centres, which has facilitated the use of cutting-edge high-tech medical equipment and creation of an effective system for the delivery of specialized medical care to mothers and children;
- Opening of up-to-date screening centres in all regions and implementation of a Government programme which has significantly reduced the number of children born with hereditary diseases and congenital abnormalities;

- Strengthening and further development of health-care infrastructure, especially at the primary health-care level and at obstetric and paediatric institutions;

- Effective disease control through measures to address epidemics and by providing full vaccination and revaccination coverage nationwide for preventable diseases;

- Sports programmes for children to boost the health of the younger generation.

Fundamental health-care reforms have been carried out in independent Uzbekistan under the leadership of President Islam Karimov. All the necessary conditions have been put in place to guarantee lives of health and dignity for the people, to raise a younger generation which is physically and mentally healthy and to expand the domestic production of pharmaceuticals. Relevant national laws have been adopted, and decrees and decisions of the President and the Cabinet of Ministers have been an important factor in the development of health care. The decree of the Head of State on the State programme to reform the health-care system of the Republic of Uzbekistan of 10 November 1998 marked the beginning of an important phase in the far-reaching reform of the sector.

Protection of maternal and child health and support for the good health of the new generation have been identified as State policy priorities. One of the first international instruments to which Uzbekistan acceded was the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the parliament ratified on 9 September 1992. The Act of the Republic of Uzbekistan on guarantees of the rights of the child was adopted on 8 January 2008.

The *Soglom Avlod Uchun* ("For a healthy generation") Order, the country's first such award, established on 4 March 1993, is a unique symbol which reflects both the aspiration for a healthy generation and the massive effort required to raise a younger generation that is physically and mentally robust.

Concern for the health of women, the procreaters of life, and for children signifies concern for the future of the nation. Since ancient times, the Uzbek people have respected women, who are the guardians of their families, the mothers and nurturers of well-balanced children. These fine Uzbek traditions and customs have gained enriched and renewed meaning in the course of the reforms enacted during the era of independence.

Raising awareness of the Healthy Mother, Healthy Child concept and nurturing a generation that is, in the fullest sense, well-balanced, have assumed the dimensions of a nationwide movement. By healthy generation we mean, above all, healthy children. Actions have been designed and measures consistently carried out in that area over the years, on the basis of the Healthy Mother, Healthy Child programme, to protect maternity and childhood, cultivate increased medical awareness in the family and strengthen the national gene pool.

In accordance with a Presidential decree of 24 November 2011, Margaret Chan, the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO), received the *Soglom Avlod Uchun* Order in the First Degree for outstanding service in overseeing the work of WHO, the development of primary health-care services and implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. This high honour was bestowed upon her by Head of State Islam Karimov.

In her remarks at the symposium, Dr. Chan noted that in Uzbekistan, health care, including maternal and child health care, was the focus of tremendous attention. She said that protection of maternal and child health had been identified as a priority, which was the soundest strategy, not only for the present, but also for the future.

Speakers at the gathering included the Minister of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Adham Ikramov; the director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, Zsuzsanna Jakab; UNICEF Regional Director for Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Steven Allen; the Minister of Health of Latvia, Ingrida Circene; the Minister of Health of Azerbaijan, Oktay Shiraliyev; United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative for Uzbekistan Anita Nirody; United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Eastern Europe and Central Asia Sub-regional Office Director Nikolai Botev; Vice President of the European Paediatric Association, Manual Moya (Spain); head of the Department of Paediatrics at the College of Medicine at Seoul National University and president of the Association of Paediatric Cardiologists of the Republic of Korea Chung Il Noh; Harvard University professor and chair of the Academic Societies Committee on International Programs of Harvard Medical School Edward James (United States of America); President of Save the Children Kim No-Bo (Republic of Korea); Charité University Clinic Professor Roland Wauer (Germany); the director of heart surgery at the Klinik Im Park, Paul Vogt (Switzerland), and others.

Zsuzsanna Jakab, director of the WHO Regional Office for Europe, noted that the Millennium Development Goals, adopted at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held in 2000, served to identify for the international community the most important tasks related to improving quality of life and increasing human well-being. The indicators for Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, reduce child mortality and improve maternal health, are key measures that attest to the effectiveness of all activities carried out in the context of the Millennium Development Goals. At the initiative of President Islam Karimov, a great deal has been done in this area in Uzbekistan, and the outcomes achieved serve as a model for other States. Today, many countries in the European region are elaborating reform strategies that take account of Uzbekistan's national mother and child health-care model.

Particular attention was drawn to the fact that in Uzbekistan, the objectives set forth in the Millennium Development Goals have been incorporated into national action plans and Government programmes.

Thoroughgoing improvements in public health care became a State policy priority following achievement of independence. As part of massive reforms in all areas implemented under the leadership of the President of Uzbekistan, tremendous transformations have been carried out to provide for the establishment of an Uzbek national health-care model. The appropriate legislative framework has been developed. The State health-care system reform programme, established in 1998 by a decree of President Islam Karimov, set forth the development strategy for medical service for the subsequent period, based on universal access to high-quality medical services.

Speakers at the symposium noted that a world-class national medical services delivery model has been created in Uzbekistan in recent years. A network of qualitatively new institutions that meet the very highest requirements has been set

up. These include a national emergency medical assistance centre and specialized clinical research centres in various branches of medicine. Multidisciplinary hospitals for children and adults operate in the regions, new maternity facilities have been built and primary care has been bolstered, including in rural health centres.

An integrated system for the delivery of specialized care to children has been created. It includes a national specialized clinical research paediatric centre and 13 regional children's multidisciplinary medical centres. Qualified care for mothers and newborns using the very latest in high-tech methods is provided at the national specialized research medical centre for obstetrics and gynaecology and its regional branches and perinatal centres.

State-of-the-art screening centres have been opened in every region of the country, in accordance with the State mother and child screening programme adopted at the initiative of the Head of State. This has raised prevention and treatment of congenital and hereditary diseases to a qualitatively new level.

Improved diet is a component of the national strategy to enhance the well-being of the population. The necessary legal and regulatory framework to guarantee food safety and quality has been put in place. Acts on State sanitary oversight, prevention of micronutrient deficiency, certification of products and services and prevention of iodine deficiency disorders have been adopted. Preventive measures are being taken in Uzbekistan to protect reproductive health and bolster the health of pregnant women by providing them with special multivitamin complexes containing the necessary range of vital micronutrients. The State has allocated funds for the procurement of polyvitamin complexes every year to support the health of pregnant women living in rural areas, boost the health of mothers and prevent congenital defects. Flour fortification and salt iodization programmes are successfully under way. All of the above, together with timely clinical and preventive services, has led to a substantial reduction in iodine deficiency in the population and in anaemia among women of childbearing age.

The President issued a Decision of 13 April 2009 on additional measures to protect the health of mothers and children and raise a healthy generation and a Decision of 1 July 2009 on a programme of measures to further strengthen and improve the effectiveness of actions to promote reproductive health, the birth of healthy children and the development of a physically and mentally robust generation for the period 2009 to 2013. Particular attention has been given to measures designed to improve the health of women of childbearing age, promote birth spacing, prevent early marriages and marriages between close relatives, improve medical workers' qualifications, improve facilities at obstetric and primary care institutions and educate the public on reproductive health matters. Outreach to involve children and youth in exercise and sports are also important to raising a well-balanced, flourishing new generation.

Resolution of the Tashkent International Symposium on the National Mother and Child Health-Care Model in Uzbekistan: Healthy Mother, Healthy Child

An international symposium on a policy priority of the Uzbekistan Government, healthy mothers and healthy children, was held in Tashkent on 25 and 26 November 2011. The purpose of the symposium was to raise the international community's awareness of Uzbekistan's achievements in the field of maternal and child health.

The following events took place in connection with the symposium on 25 November:

- A panel discussion on current priorities for achieving Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 in the European region, the participants in which included ministers of health and national delegations to the symposium, as well as directors and experts from international organizations;

- 15 parallel conferences and master classes on mother-and-child issues of current interest, led by prominent scientists and specialists from pre-eminent medical clinics and centres.

The main symposium programme took place on 26 November.

Some 1,000 people, including Government officials, members of the diplomatic corps posted to Uzbekistan, parliamentarians from both upper and lower chambers, representatives of community and international organizations and health-care professionals, attended the symposium. Some 230 directors of health-care systems (ministers and deputy ministers) and international organizations, international experts and prominent scientists and specialists from some 40 countries participated in an extremely animated discussion of the outcomes of the national mother and child health-care model implementation.

There were discussions, in eight parallel sessions, of outcomes in the principal areas of the national mother and child health-care model:

- Management of outpatient polyclinic care for children in the context of health-care system reform; issues related to the delivery of emergency care to children;

- The current status of and problems in specialized medical care for children;

- State-of-the-art perinatal and neonatal technology based on the principles of evidence-based medicine;

- Mother and child screening as the foundation of congenital and hereditary disease prevention in children;

- Vaccine-based prevention and children's infectious illnesses;

- Reproductive health and creating medical awareness within the family; and a healthy diet;

- A global partnership to achieve the Millennium Development Goals: results and prospects.

Performance improvement recommendations were developed for each area and included in the symposium resolution.

In closing, delegates to the Tashkent International Symposium on the National Mother and Child Health-Care Model in Uzbekistan: Healthy Mother, Healthy Child, held on 25 and 26 November 2011, highlighted the need to:

1. Recognize Uzbekistan's national mother and child health-care model, Healthy Mother, Healthy Child, as an effective strategy for reaching global development goals and the considerable progress made in mother and child health care in Uzbekistan;

2. Note that, as a result of sustained activities to reform the national health-care system, a holistic organizational and institutional medical care delivery system has been established, encompassing all levels of health care from rural health centres providing primary care to specialized medical centres delivering complex high-tech medical services to the public;

3. Acknowledge Uzbekistan's contribution and its full commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goals related to health, sustainable development and a global partnership for development;

4. Recommend the following avenues of activity based on mother and child health-care results obtained in Uzbekistan:

- Further capacity-building for health-care workers and implementation of practical health-care approaches based on WHO and UNICEF recommendations in the context of mother and child health care; institutional enhancement; and improved management of the system of primary health-care institutions;

- Integration of emergency care institutions and state-of-the-art technology for emergency obstetric and paediatric care at all levels; continued development of acute and emergency medical care;

- Further development of specialized paediatric care and creation of an effective vertical system for managing prevention, early detection and treatment of children's diseases in order to reduce infant and child morbidity and mortality; and continued elaboration and adoption of evidence-based clinical guidelines for children's diseases;

- Universal access to quality maternal, reproductive and child health-care services, including prevention, health promotion and improved prenatal and pre-delivery care and provision of quality care to pregnant women, mothers and newborns; restructuring of pre-delivery and neonatal care; continued development and adoption of evidence-based clinical guidelines and standards; use of confidential enquiries into maternal deaths and auditing of critical cases in accordance with WHO methodology;

- Further development and quality enhancement of pre-delivery and neonatal screening programmes and adoption of state-of-the-art evidence-based screening technology;

- Achievement and maintenance of a high level of timely immunization coverage with vaccine prevention for children in accordance with the national immunization calendar;

- Consolidation of actions taken by the countries of the region, the international community and international organizations to ensure favourable health and epidemiological conditions; improved monitoring and oversight of country implementation of the International Health Regulations;

- Close cooperation and coordination of activities with governmental, non-governmental and international organizations to further stabilize and reduce HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria incidence and morbidity;

- Continued implementation of comprehensive Government programmes to foster reproductive health and raise public awareness of medical issues, with

the involvement of the relevant governmental, non-governmental, community and international organizations;

Extensive outreach to promote a healthy lifestyle for young people and continued improvement of the premarital training programme on healthy families;

Further implementation of legislation, regulations and programmes to improve nutrition and prevent micronutrient deficiency, particularly among women of childbearing age and children; promotion of breastfeeding and appropriate introduction of additional food for all children;

Further strengthening of the intersectoral partnership with a defined contribution for each sector and promotion of joint actions to achieve the health-related Millennium Development Goals;

Continued improvement of the information system for mother and childcare, family planning and the needs of vulnerable groups, elaboration of monitoring mechanisms and promotion of sound practices for decision-making and drafting of regulations;

Joint activities with local communities and civil society to plan comprehensive programmes; appeals to the United Nations system and other partners to support national efforts to improve the health and living conditions of mothers and children.

United Nations A/66/649

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General debate

Letter dated 22 December 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 December 2011 from Hilmi Akil, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Ertuğrul **Apakan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 22 December 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 26 September 2011 addressed from the Greek Cypriot representative to the President of the General Assembly and circulated as a document of the General Assembly (A/66/396), which comprises the text of the written statement of the Greek Cypriot delegation in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey, on 22 September 2011 in the General Assembly. In the face of unfounded allegations contained in that letter, I am compelled to set the record straight.

It must be reiterated at the outset that it is the Greek Cypriot Administration which has escalated the tension in the Eastern Mediterranean region through unlawful actions such as delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas and authorization of oil/natural gas exploration activities. These actions were undertaken despite repeated reminders from the Turkish Cypriot side that such issues and jurisdictions would be left to the discretion of the new partnership government that would result from the ongoing negotiation between the two sides on the island. Instead of heeding the call of the Turkish Cypriot side to focus on the solution of the Cyprus problem through the United Nations-led negotiations, the Greek Cypriot administration, purporting to be the "Government of the Republic of Cyprus", continues with its provocative behaviour, which further jeopardizes the stability in an already volatile region.

By trying to name a culprit other than itself for the increased tension in the area, the Greek Cypriot administration is, in fact, attempting to cover the ulterior motives behind its one-sided initiatives: to compromise and prejudge the Turkish Cypriots' inherent and legitimate right to the natural resources of the island.

In this context, it must be restated that the Greek Cypriot administration has no legal or moral right to represent or act on behalf of the Turkish Cypriot people or the island as a whole.

As an additional gain from its destructive activities, the Greek Cypriot side hopes for the derailment of the island's ongoing political negotiations, which have reached a critical stage — a stage which will no longer have room for foot-dragging or forestalling so prevalent in the Greek Cypriot political armoury.

Even though the Turkish Cypriot side is in principle opposed to such undertakings before a comprehensive solution, we were obliged to take certain steps in order to protect our inherent rights. The continental shelf delimitation agreement between the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and the Republic of Turkey, signed on 21 September 2011, exploration permits granted on 22 September 2011 to the Turkish Petroleum Corporation by the Council of Ministers of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, and the seismic survey activities of the Turkish side are all steps aimed at dissuading the Greek Cypriot side from the dangerous path it has embarked upon, which threatens the very foundation of a solution as envisioned by the United Nations parameters and relevant Security Council resolutions. It must be stated once again that the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, in cooperation with Turkey, is determined to take the necessary steps to protect the ipso facto rights

and interests of the Turkish Cypriot people as the co-owners of the island and its natural resources.

Regarding the denigrating reference to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in the aforementioned text, I would like to remind the Greek Cypriot delegation that the Turkish intervention, carried out in accordance with Turkey's rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee, was the direct result of the bloody coup d'état carried out by the joint Greek-Greek Cypriot front, which was aimed at the annexation of the island to Greece and the annihilation of the Turkish Cypriot people in line with the notorious Akritas Plan. Therefore, contrary to the Greek Cypriot delegation's claim, it must be noted that the only occupation in the island is the 46-year-long occupation of the seat of the "Government of Cyprus" by the Greek Cypriot administration.

Finally, it must be stressed that throughout the recent period of tension, it was the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus which had demonstrated a firm commitment to peace, stability and cooperation in the island and the region. The President, Derviş Eroğlu, did his utmost to resolve the crisis in a peaceful and equitable manner with his proposal presented to the Secretary-General on 24 September 2011, which provided for the Secretary-General's mediation, as well as the cooperation of the two sides in an ad hoc tripartite committee for the fair sharing of natural resources, whereby the revenue would be used to finance the implementation of the provisions of an eventual comprehensive settlement expected to be reached through the current United Nations negotiation process.

Rather than embracing this proposal as a constructive way forward, the Greek Cypriot leadership has opted to continue with its unilateral acts and aggressive stance to the disappointment of many an interested party. President Eroğlu's proposal continues to be on the table.

Despite the Greek Cypriot side's provocative actions, the Turkish Cypriot side shall continue displaying the necessary goodwill and channel its efforts towards overcoming all obstacles in the formation of a new partnership in Cyprus, in line with the established United Nations parameters. The Greek Cypriot administration must be reminded to discontinue its malicious campaigns against the Turkish Cypriots and Turkey, aimed at diverting international attention from its provocative actions in the Eastern Mediterranean, and encouraged to focus on the negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations in order to bring about a comprehensive solution to the Cyprus problem.

(*Signed*) Hilmi **Akil**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus